

CHARD UNION

Rural Sanitary Authority.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1895.

Chard :

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1896.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF
THE * CHARD * UNION,
For the Year ending December 31st, 1895.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my 17th Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition and Vital Statistics of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1895.

AREA : 55,000 ACRES. POPULATION : 17,000.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF BIRTHS & DEATHS, &c.

Required by the County Council.

Registered Births, Males	...	...	...	...	211
" " Females	...	...	...	...	193
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	404
Registered Deaths, Males	...	...	...	...	130
" " Females	...	...	...	...	138
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	268
Birth rate per thousand population	...	...	...	...	23·7
Death rate per thousand population	...	...	...	...	15·7

TABULAR STATEMENT ALSO REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Birth rate per thousand living.	Death rate per thousand living.	Zymotic death rate per thousand living.	Infant Mortality per thousand Births.
23·7	15·7	0·80	113·8

As against the following for the previous year.

26·0	15·0	0·30	102·5
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MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Under one year	46
One year and under five years	28
Five years and under fifteen years	...	...	...	16
Fifteen years and under twenty five years	...	...	...	10
Twenty five years and under sixty five years	...	...	...	76
Sixty five years and upwards	...	...	...	92
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	268

MONTHLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	20	12	32	13	16	29
February.....	17	20	37	14	18	32
March	20	13	33	17	8	25
April	22	13	35	18	16	34
May	23	26	49	10	10	20
June.....	16	15	31	9	12	21
July	16	23	39	7	10	17
August	20	12	32	9	5	14
September	18	18	36	5	12	17
October	6	12	18	6	14	20
November	16	19	35	12	9	21
December	17	10	27	10	8	18
Grand total...	211	193	404	130	138	268

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEATHS,

As required by the Local Government Board.

Ague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Continued } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Relapsing } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bronchitis } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	58
Pneumonia } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy } ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	12
Injuries ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
All other Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	164
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	268

METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall for the year 1895 was 33 inches, the rainfall for the last ten years being as follows:—

1885	...	...	37 inches	|	1890	...	...	30 inches
1886	...	...	35 "	|	1891	...	...	39 "
1887	...	...	24 "	|	1892	...	...	26 "
1888	...	...	34 "	|	1893	...	...	26 "
1889	...	...	25 "	|	1894	...	...	44 "

so that the rainfall for the year was really one inch above the average for the last ten years.

A comparison of the rainfall in the north, south, and west is interesting:—North, at Gordon Castle, 34 inches was registered; South at Chichester, 28 inches; East, whilst our rainfall was 33 inches.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

During the early part of the year cases of Influenza and Measles were prevalent, neither of these diseases being included amongst the list of diseases "notified" under the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act," we, therefore, have no regular means of ascertaining an outbreak of these diseases, so that, speaking generally, the disease is pretty well spread over a parish before we are requested to take any steps towards checking it from spreading. Influenza, Measles, and Whooping Cough should, undoubtedly, be included in the list of diseases to be notified, steps could then be taken to "isolate" the cases at the commencement, and so materially lessen the chance of an epidemic. During the autumnal part of the year a few cases of Enteric Fever were reported, in one or two of the cases it was found almost impossible to trace the origin; in all cases immediate steps were taken, in order to prevent the disease from spreading, the steps taken, in every case, proved successful. Considering the unusually high temperature experienced during this period, and also the drought, it is certainly very fortunate so few cases of this disease were notified.

The number of deaths due to diseases coming under the heading of "zymotic" were 15, against 11 the previous year, viz.; Measles, 6; Whooping Cough, 3; Typhoid Fever, 3; Scarlet Fever, 2; and Croup, 1.

At present we have no special hospital for the treatment of infectious cases—such an institution would undoubtedly be a

great boon--because, on receipt of the notification of a disease of an infectious character, the case would be at once removed to the hospital, and an epidemic, so to speak, would, practically speaking, be nipped in the bud

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, BAKE-HOUSES, AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Your Inspectors have regularly visited the above, and reported them as being in a satisfactory condition generally. Before constructing a Dairy-House, it is highly essential that the site chosen should be one where the drainage would have a free run, and that a plentiful supply of pure water is close at hand. The rooms should be lofty, with a good system of ventilation and lighting, and the floor in all cases where milk is kept, should be well cemented.

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

The parish of Misterton having been included in my district, a special inspection of the sanitary arrangements of the parish was made. There is no system of drainage there, but the house drains go direct into a small stream; after a spell of dry weather, the water in the stream is not sufficient to carry away the sewage, and the stench which naturally arises from the sewage deposited on the sides of the stream, must be very injurious to health. A proper system of drainage was recommended, and the "Rivers Pollution Act" was pointed out to the Parochial Committee. At Coombes, Tatworth, in the parish of Chard, consisting of about 15 cottages, a special inspection of the sanitary arrangements and water supply was made. Taking into consideration the situation of these cottages, the present arrangement of privy and cesspit was condemned, and the earth closet system recommended. There being a fine spring of water in the locality, the Parochial Committee were advised to bring this water down in a pipe, for the use of the inhabitants of these cottages, the expense of which would be quite nominal. For many years I have brought before the notice of this Authority, the indifferent water supply for the cottagers at Kenny Ashill, at present derived from a stream, which stream, when there is a heavy rainfall, receives the overflow from two farm yards, before reaching the cottages, whilst an ample supply of wholesome water could be brought down in a pipe, from a spring in an adjacent field.

FACTORY AND WORK-SHOP ACT.

The various Factories and Work-shops coming under this act, have been visited by the Inspectors, and reported to be kept in satisfactory condition.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASS ACT.

During the year it was found necessary to have a few cottages repaired, all of these cottages were in the Crewkerne Division. If cottagers are to keep their cottages clean and neat, cottages constructed with some idea of comfort and attractiveness, must be placed at their disposal.

EXPOSURE OF MEAT, FISH, &c. FOR SALE, UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD.

It certainly speaks well for our district, that during the year no meat, fish, &c., was found by the inspectors, exposed for sale, unfit for human food. A considerable number of samples of water were received for testing ; where there was any doubt about the purity of the sample, another was forwarded to the County Analyst.

PUBLIC BATHS.

I trust the Parish Councils will see the necessity of supplying Public Baths, as that portion of the community which have the greatest need of bathing, have the least facilities for so doing. Decomposed secretions of the skin, which accumulate on the the body, are not only offensive, but highly injurious.

In conclusion, I may state your Inspectors regularly visit their district, and a notice is given to abate any nuisance without delay. Three hundred and twenty-eight petty nuisances were thus reported, and abated during the year.

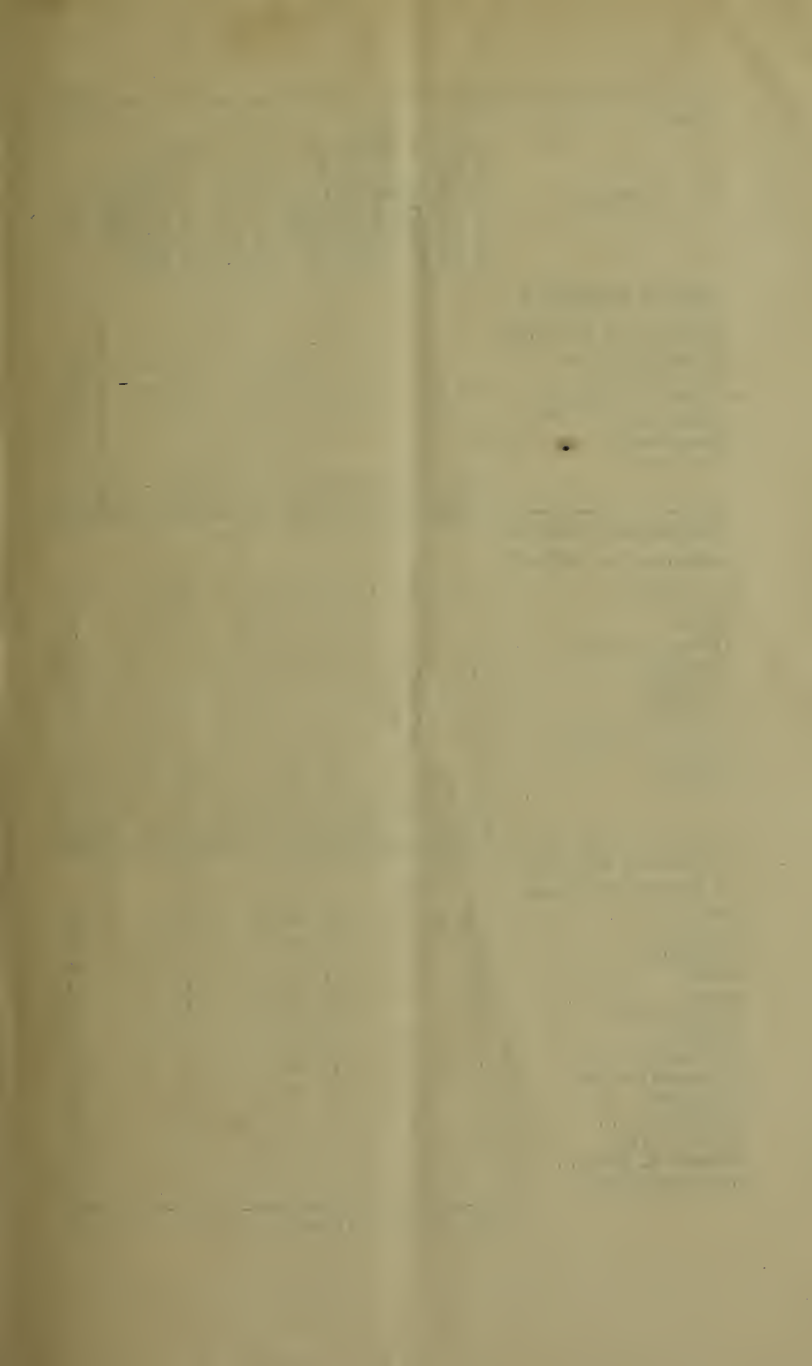
I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Ilminster, January 16th, 1896.



List of Nuisances Reported and Abated during the year 1895.

PARISH.	Defective Drains.	Choked Closets.	Fish and Meat exposed.	Insufficient Privy Accommodation.	Privy and Cesspit overflowing.	Accumulation of Refuse.	Lime Washing.	Overcrowding.	Cleaning Wells.	Pig Styes kept in filthy condition.	Dilapidated Houses.	TOTAL.
CHARD DISTRICT.												
<i>Inspector, Mr. R. Smith.</i>												
Buckland St. Mary ...		2				6	4		1	2		15
Chard Parish... ..	14	4		12	3	8	12		17	2	1	73
Combe St. Nicholas ..		11		4	3	6	3		2	2		31
Chaffcombe												0
Whitestaunton	2					1	2		1			6
Wambrook						1	1					2
	16	17		16	6	22	22		21	6	1	127
Crewkerne District.												
<i>Inspector, Mr. Holwell.</i>												
W. Crewkerne	1	2			6	2	4		2	1	1	19
Merriott	4	2		3	5	11	3		1	2	1	32
Lopen										1		1
Hinton St. George ...	4				2	6	5					17
Dinnington	1			1				2			1	5
Chillington	3	1		3	1		3		1		1	13
Cudworth												0
Cricket St. Thomas ...												0
Winsham	5				6	1	1			2		15
Wayford		1			1	2			1		1	6
Misterton	4			14	6	2	1		1		1	29
	22	6		21	27	24	17	2	6	6	6	137
Ilminster District.												
<i>Inspector, Mr. Fenner.</i>												
Ilminster... ..	4	3			4	6	5		4	3		29
Shepton	2					2				2		6
Seavington	3			2								5
Ashill	1						1		1	1		4
Ilton	2				2	4			1			9
Dowlish Wake						1				1		2
Donyatt				3	1					1		5
Broadway	1			1	2							4
Cricket Malherbie ...												0
Kingstone												0
Stocklinch												0
Dowlish Wake												0
Knowle St. Giles												0
Whitelackington												0
	15	3			12	16	6			8		64

PARISH.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES. AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.				
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																
Ashill	9	1	1	1	4	2	Under 5 5 upwards						1												1	1		5	1	8		
Broadway	7			1		4	Under 5 5 upwards																		1			5		7		
Buckland St. Mary	11		3			1	Under 5 5 upwards														1				1			1	7	3	8	
Chard Parish	24	4	2	2		9	Under 5 5 upwards																		2	4		2	12	6	18	
Crewkerne	14	2	3	2		4	Under 5 5 upwards													3					1	2	1	1	2	5	9	
Chillington	5	2				2	Under 5 5 upwards																		1				2	2	3	
Cudworth	2	2					Under 5 5 upwards													1									1		2	
Chaffcombe	6	1				4	Under 5 5 upwards																							1	1	5
Combe St. Nicholas	20	9	1	1	2	2	Under 5 5 upwards		1																2	3	1	1	5	10	10	
Cricket Malherbie	1			1			Under 5 5 upwards																							1	1	
Cricket St. Thomas	1					1	Under 5 5 upwards																			1					1	
Donyatt	12		4	2		3	Under 5 5 upwards																			3	2		1	4	8	
Dowlish Wake	6		1			1	Under 5 5 upwards				1		1																	4	1	5
Dowlish West	1	1					Under 5 5 upwards																			1						1
Dinnington	0						Under 5 5 upwards																									
Hinton St. George	9	3	1	1		4	Under 5 5 upwards													1						2			2	4	5	
Ilminster	50	4	7	1	3	16	Under 5 5 upwards		1																	2	4	7	2	7	11	39
Ilton	6		1		1	2	Under 5 5 upwards																				2			3	5	
Kingstone	2		1			1	Under 5 5 upwards																							1	1	1
Knowle St. Giles	1	1					Under 5 5 upwards																							1		1
Lopen	8	1				3	Under 5 5 upwards																			1	2		1	4		7
Merriott	19	4	1		1	7	Under 5 5 upwards																			2	3	1	2	5	14	
Misterton	9	2		1		1	Under 5 5 upwards																				2			2	2	7
Seavington St. Mary	3					3	Under 5 5 upwards																							3	3	
Seavington St. Michael	2					1	Under 5 5 upwards																			1				1	2	
Shepton Beauchamp	14	5	1			4	Under 5 5 upwards																			3	2		3	6	8	
Stocklinch	3				2	1	Under 5 5 upwards																			1				2		3
Wayford	6		1	1		1	Under 5 5 upwards													1						1	2			1		5
Wambrook	3	1				1	Under 5 5 upwards																						1		1	2
Whitelackington	1					1	Under 5 5 upwards																									1
Whitestaunton	0						Under 5 5 upwards																									
Winsham	13	4		2		3	Under 5 5 upwards						1													2	1			2	4	9
TOTALS	268	46	28	16	10	76	92		1		1		3						1		5	3			13	24	12	4	39	74	194	

[illegible]

